(1) to (3) as the protein of (i) and has an amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2 in which one or more amino acids are replaced with different amino acids, one or more amino acids are added to the N- or C-terminus of SEQ ID NO:2, or one or more amino acids at the N- or C-terminus of SEQ ID NO:2 are deleted:

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- (1) Molecular weight $19,000 \pm 5,000 \text{ daltons on gel filtration and}$ sodium dodecylsulfate polyacrylamide gel electrophoresis (SDS-PAGE);
- (2) Isoelectric point (pI)
 4.8 ± 1.0 on chromatofocusing;
- (3) Biological activity
 Inducing the interferon-γ production by immunocompetent cells; and
- Partial amino acid sequence

 Possessing the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO:2,

 wherein Xaa is Met or Thr.